

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 059494

R 040658Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3600

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, SW

SUBJECT: VIETNAM AND SWEDEN

REF: STATE 256859 AND A-9137

1. I AM PROVIDING PRIME MINISTER PALME AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON WITH COPIES OF EMBASSY SAIGON'S PAPER ON THE DRV/PRG MOTIVATION FOR VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT. I AM ALSO BRINGING TO THEIR ATTENTION THE ECONOMIST ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 28, HEADED "DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS -- THE BALANCE OF THE WAR PEOPLE LIKE TO IGNORE IS TILTING TOWARDS NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE NORTH VIETNAM'S SUPPORTERS ARE STILL GIVING IT WHAT IT WANTS."

2. SOME IN THE GOS WILL APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF DRV RESPONSIBILITY FOR RENEWED AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND FOR A MILITARY BUILD-UP PREPARATORY TO A MAJOR PUSH. THESE ARE THE UNEASY, THOUGH THUS FAR SILENT MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT WHO WOULD AGREE WITH THE ECONOMIST SUGGESTION THAT THIEU IS PREFERABLE TO A POLITBURO AND IS SO CONSIDERED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MAJORITY.

3. MILITANT HARD-CORE DRV BACKERS IN SWEDEN, OF COURSE,
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KNOW FULL WELL THAT THE STRUGGLE IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS

BETWEEN DRV AGGRESSION AND A THIEU-LED, OBSTINATE DEFENSE.
THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THE "RIGHT" CASE JUSTIFIES
AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS.

4. PALME IS A PRAGMATIST WHO WILL CONTINUE TO TALK IN
FAVOR OF THE DRV/PRG SO LONG AS HE JUDGES THEM CERTAIN
WINNERS. NO ARGUMENT WOULD SO EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE GOS
CONDUCT TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM AS THE
BEGINNING OF AWARENESS THAT SOUTH VIETNAM WILL NOT BE
OVERCOME BY EITHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL MEANS. THERE
IS NOT MUCH ON THE HORIZON AT THE MOMENT TO STIMULATE
SUCH AN AWARENESS AND FOR THAT REASON, I BELIEVE WE CAN
ONLY RESTRAIN, BUT NOT TURN AROUND, SWEDISH POLICY.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

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